

## **REMARKS**

### **Examiner's Amendment and Interview Summary**

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that the Examiner noticed that claim 35 was omitted from the preliminary amendment filed with the divisional patent application. Applicant appreciates that the Examiner telephoned the undersigned about the missing claim and pursuant to that telephone conversation added the claim back in (as originally filed in the patent application) by Examiner's amendment. Applicant confirms that the Examiner's amendment is correct and that the claim was inadvertently omitted from the preliminary amendment.

### **Objections and Rejections related to "Me(OH)"**

The Examiner has objected to the specification under 37 CFR 1.71 for failing to provide an adequate written description of the invention as disclosed on page 3, line 18, line 19, line 21; on page 15, line 10, line 12, and elsewhere in the specification, because according to the Examiner "Me can not be defined as an alkali metal since Me(OH) is well known in the art as methanol and the methyl group does not belong to the alkali metal group".

Similarly, the Examiner has rejected claims 12-14, 16-18, 20-22, and 24-26 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, for the reasons set forth in the objection to the specification.

Consequently, Applicant has amended all uses of Me(OH) in the application. However, Applicant respectfully submits that his doing so does not in any way add new matter, since the term is defined in the specification to mean an alkali metal hydroxide (see page 3, lines 17-18), and further, Applicant's usage is believed consistent with that common among at least some of those skilled in the art relevant to Applicant's invention. Applicant has amended pages 3, 15 and 16 of the specification and claims 12-14, 16-18, 20-22, and 24-26 to change -Me(OH)—to "alkali metal hydroxide."

### **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph**

The Examiner has rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being "indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention." Specifically, the Examiner has

indicated that claim 17 is "indefinite in the use of 'Me is selected from the alkali metals' since Me is well known in the art as methyl group."

In response, Applicant has deleted this phrase from claim 17 as unnecessary language because the phrase is part of a list explaining abbreviations in a formula which does not contain "Me." Applicant has made similar deletions in claims 16 and 18 for the same reason.

**Allowed claims**

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed claims 28-30, 32, 34 and 35.

The Office Action Summary indicates that claims 2 and 3 are rejected but the Examiner has not indicated the reason for the rejection. Applicant respectfully submits that the claim is in allowable form.

Applicant further respectfully submits that the claims as amended are also now in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter the amendments and to allow the application to proceed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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